

4 November 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: NCPC Hearings

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1. On Wednesday, 3 November 1971, [REDACTED] BPS/OL, attended the morning session of NCPC Federal Planning and Projects Committee hearings, namely, hearings one through four as listed in the attached agenda.

2. It was of specific interest to note the great variance in time allocated to each of the hearings: number one, 65 minutes; number two, 80 minutes; number three, 8 minutes; and number four, 2 minutes. This variance existed even though the subject content of the four hearings was similar. It is interesting to note that the two military presentations were far inferior to those of the Smithsonian Institution and appeared to be just "rubber stamping" type of preliminary hearings. The master plans had apparently been approved before and the military projects were in compliance with the development plan.

3. Presentations consisted of an integrated series of graphics and narration which outlined the present composition of the installation and the proposed development. Aerial photographs were used in the first three presentations to depict the area involved and a map was used in the fourth presentation. All master plans consisted of land use plans, circulation plans - both vehicular and pedestrian, site development plans, landscape plans, and existing land use plans.

4. The NCPC staff member advised the Committee that they had received the required environmental, personnel, economic, and ecological impact statements and that there was no significant impact to be caused by the proposals.

5. Presentation data used in the four hearings, in general, was basically no better, no more professional than those currently generated and used by the BPS/OL.

6. A terraced parking structure incorporated into the "Washington Zoo" master plan represented an innovated approach to the parking problem utilizing a natural sloped area allowing direct access to parking levels from a roadway. It was also interesting to note the "concern" expressed by the Committee over the problems incurred in the siting of a parking facility (surface or structure) on

a "tight" site. Various citizens groups also expressed a concern over not only the aesthetic aspects of a parking facility but also the increased traffic brought about by the increased parking capacity on the site.

7. Citizen groups and zoo officials also had a common concern regarding the proposed Metro Station location and how it would service the expanded zoo and not provide needed access desired either by distance to zoo entrances or access on both sides of Connecticut Avenue. Future meetings with Metro officials would be needed to alleviate these conditions. The NCPC Chairman advised that the citizens groups involved and the zoo officials meet and resolve a common position of agreement on the issues concerned.

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